

REMARKS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of Applicant's amendment to claim 1 and remarks herein. In accordance with the arguments for patentability previously advanced and considered by the Examiner, the single generic claim in this application, claim 1, is now amended to recite that the magnetic material is enclosed within the fine particles. This amendment is supported by the specification as filed, for example, at page 4, lines 16-17. Entry and consideration are respectfully requested. No new issues are raised by the amendment to claim 1.

In the final Office Action, rejections of record are maintained. In paragraph 4 of the Office Action, claims 1-3 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Davies et al; in paragraph 9 of the Office Action, claims 4-5, 8 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Davies et al; and in paragraph 14 of the Office Action, claims 7 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Davies et al in view of Goldman et al.

In each of the above rejections, Davies et al is cited as disclosing a polyolefin, a magnetic material coating on the polyolefin and functional groups on the surface. Goldman et al is merely cited as disclosing soft magnetic materials and thus does not aid the basic rejection grounded on Davies et al.

In Davies et al, the magnetic material is a coating over at least a portion of the surface of a low density polyolefin core. In contrast, in the present invention, the magnetic material is contained within the fine polyolefin particles. Since this feature of the magnetic material being enclosed within the polyolefin particles is not taught nor suggested by Davies et al, all claims are both novel and unobvious over the reference. Reconsideration and withdrawal of all rejections based on the Davies et al reference, including claims 7 and 9, are respectfully requested.

The present invention offers distinct advantages as compared with the composite of Davies et al, based on the location of the magnetic material. Fine particles having the magnetic material enclosed within the fine particles avoid environmental impact to the magnetic material, unlike the situation in Davies et al. For example, in Davies et al, the magnetic material coated on

the particle surfaces tends to dissolve in acidic solutions, which would not occur with the present invention.

Further, when the magnetic material is enclosed within the particles, functional groups can be located on all particle surface areas, while in the case of having the magnetic material coated on particle surfaces as in Davies et al, only a small surface area of the particle will be available for attachment of functional groups. Thus, with the present invention, particles having on their surfaces highly chemically reactive functional groups can be obtained.

The above features achievable with the present invention offer distinct improvements over the system of Davies et al.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance are now believed to be in order, and are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the listed telephone number.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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